

Proceedings of the Workshop on

Simulation of Social Agents: Architectures and Institutions

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Edited by David Sallach and Thomas Wolsko

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Foreword

Welcome to the *Proceedings* of the second annual workshop on the simulation of social agents, co-sponsored by Argonne National Laboratory (Decision and Information Sciences Division) and The University of Chicago (Social Science Research Computing).

The articles in this collection provide a view of the state-of-the-craft of social agent simulation in the early twenty-first century. They reveal that agent simulation is being applied to an impressive range of research topics — financial markets, environmental impact, housing segregation, international conflict, the causes of energy shortages, the dynamics of status symbols. Clearly, agent simulation provides a methodology through which a vast array of issues can be framed and addressed.

Nevertheless, simulation models do not and cannot emulate whole societies in all of their multifaceted dynamics. The processes represented within current simulations are selected to represent a particular research focus. In the years to come, the representation of such social entities and processes will be at the heart of an active dialogue between the substantive social sciences and the emerging epistemic community of agent simulation modelers. This is an important dialogue, and one to which we hope this workshop series will continue to contribute.

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Acknowledgments

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Victor Lofgreen coordinated the logistics and managed the audiotaping of the workshop. Jewel Carter also helped with logistics. Kathy Ruffatto handled registration and administration, and Bob Baker managed the workshop web site. Jane Andrew assembled and copyedited the proceedings, including presentations, abstracts, papers, and discussions, with help from Curt A. Strating and others from Alanwood Enterprises, Inc. (for transcription of the discussions) and Linda Graf and others in Argonne's Document Processing Center (for word processing).

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